(d) what steps Government have taken to take such constructive and useful techniques to the grass roots, for the benefit of common men?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Shri Chewang Narphle has reportedly done good work in some villages of Leh-Laddakh region for harvesting glacial melt water during early spring when there is acute shortage of water.

(b) to (d) The Desert Development Programme (DDP) administered by the Ministry of Rural Development, is being implemented in 235 Blocks of 40 Districts across 7 States. The programme aims at desertification control in the hot desert and cold desert areas of these Districts/States. While the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka and Rajasthan have hot desert areas, the States of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir (in Leh-Laddakh) have cold desert areas. Since the geoclimatic conditions of the hot desert area are entirely different from the cold desert areas, the techniques introduced by Shri Chewang Narphle in cold desert areas of Leh-Laddakh may not be replicable in hot desert areas. However, these techniques may be useful in the cold desert districts of Himachal Pradesh i.e. Lahaul Spiti and Kinnaur covered under DDP. In view of this, the State Rural Development Department of Himachal Pradesh has been advised by the Ministry to acquire these techniques and assess their efficacy for replication in Lahaul Spiti and Kinnaur under DDP.

BPL Survey, 2002

2853. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government had requested for re-consideration the change of methodology of Below Poverty Line (BPL) survey, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) what are the details of rnethodolody of Below Poverty Line Survey andwhether Government are considering to revive this, after consideration of various State Government's request, particularly Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance to the State to conduct the BPL Census in the beginning of every Five Year Plan to identify the poor households in the rural areas who could be targeted for assistance under the various programmes of the Ministry. For the 10th Five Year Plan, BPL Census 2002 was conducted based on the methodology recommended by the Expert Group which was finalized after a wide range of discussions with the various stakeholders and the State Governments. The methodology for the BPL Census 2002 was a 'Score Based Ranking' of the BPL households and for this purpose 13 socio-economic parameters were prescribed which included size of operational holding of land, type of house, availability of clothes, food security, sanitation, ownership of consumer durables, literacy, status of labour force of the household, means of livelihood, status of children's education, indebtedness and reasons for migration etc. The main objective of this methodology was to prepare the BPL list based on comparative deprivation and transparency. The State Government have been provided adequate flexibility to determine the number of BPL households to account for local factors and situation. The guidelines also provide a two-stage appeal mechanism to redress the grievances of the people relating to their rank in the BPL list. The Government of Maharashtra has been accordingly requested to finalise the list so that poorest of the poor get the priority under the programmes.

Influential people getting benefits under SGSY

†2854. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that influential people and landlords in the villages ae getting more benefits under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have found this fact at their own level; and

(d) the State-wise details thereof for the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development conducted a concurrent evalution during 2002-03 to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.